

Quarterly Performance Report

***1st Quarter
SFY 2004***

(July – September)

**Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services
Quality Assurance Unit**

Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is distributed to Division of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) managers and to the legislative committees dealing with children and youth. The QPR for the first quarter of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2004, specifically July– September 2003, consists of three parts:

1. **Performance Indicators**, which provide information on service outcomes, such as:
 - a. *Percentage of Families with True Allegations of Child Maltreatment Three Months, Six Months and One Year After a Previous True Report*
 - b. *Percentage of Siblings in Placement who Are Placed Together*
 - c. *Percentage of Children Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights*
2. **Compliance Index**, which reports on the Division's compliance with requirements set by DCFS with guidance from the Arkansas legislative children and youth committees, such as:
 - a. *Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments*
 - b. *24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care*
 - c. *Foster Home Recruitment*
3. **Description of Population and Services**, which describes the children who were the subjects of maltreatment reports, were served in foster care and were provided adoption services, such as:
 - a. *Types of Allegations in Child Maltreatment Reports*
 - b. *Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care*
 - c. *Characteristics of Children Placed in Adoptive Homes*

The QPR provides this information on a quarterly basis, showing trends over time and provides the agency with information on the populations served and pertinent issues so the agency may better target its efforts at improving performance.

Part I: Performance Indicators

DCFS has established nine performance indicators to measure its progress with regard to its major goals of child safety, permanency and well-being. During the first quarter, DCFS continued its efforts toward meeting these goals. Overall, DCFS maintained its past success in those efforts.

There is one noteworthy area this quarter as addressed below.

- Percentage of Children Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights

The percentage for children living with adoptive families within 12 months was 33 percent, lower than the previous the quarter. DCFS has applied for and received a five year grant from Health and Human Services to enable DCFS to place waiting children in adoptive homes.

Part II: Compliance Index

DCFS has set compliance measures with guidance from the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth. An index is compiled by reporting the level of compliance with these compliance measures.

There are five noteworthy areas this quarter as addressed below.

- Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage for timely initiation stood at **82 percent**, three percentage points lower than the previous quarter and below the goal of 95 percent.

For Priority 1 Referrals, six areas decreased in compliance percentages from the last quarter, three increased in compliance and one remained the same. For Priority 2 referrals, six areas decreased in compliance percentages from the last quarter, two increased in compliance and two remained the same.

One overriding issue throughout all areas that influenced the ability to meet the requirement for timely initiation was the hiring freeze that was in place due to the financial situation in the Division. This resulted in an increase in vacant positions and a subsequent increase in caseload size for remaining Family Service Workers. After the quarter ended, positions were approved to be filled. The impact of this thaw in the hiring freeze may not be indicated in performance until the positions

can be filled and the new hires are trained and able to assume a caseload.

Area Managers are addressing the vacancy issue by shifting staff temporarily between counties and even sharing staff between areas temporarily.

In addition to vacancy issues, Area Managers with unacceptable compliance rates planned other corrective actions, including the following:

- A review by staff of the initiation process and time frames.
 - Additional supervisory review to assure timely initiation and narrative entry.
 - Increased formal supervisory conferences between the supervisors and workers.
 - Increased electronic reminders of due dates and tracking of those dates.
- Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage for timely completion stood at **76 percent**, one percent higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 90 percent. The percentage for the timely completion of Priority I referrals was 71 percent, while the percentage for Priority II referrals was 76 percent.

For Priority 1 Referrals, seven areas decreased compliance percentages from the last quarter, and three increased compliance. For Priority 2 referrals, five areas decreased compliance percentages from the last quarter, three increased compliance and three remained the same.

One overriding issue throughout all areas that influenced the ability to meet the requirement for timely completion of investigations was the hiring freeze that was in place due to the financial situation in the Division. This resulted in an increase in vacant positions and a subsequent increase in caseload size for remaining Family Service Workers. After the quarter ended, positions were approved to be filled. The impact of this thaw in the hiring freeze may not be indicated in performance until the positions can be filled, the new hires trained and able to assume a caseload.

Area Managers are addressing the vacancy issue by shifting staff temporarily between counties and even sharing staff between areas temporarily.

In addition to actions to address the vacancy issue, Area Managers with unacceptable compliance have initiated other corrective actions, including the following:

- Monitoring by the Area Manager.
 - Increased supervisory conferences on the status of investigations.
-
- 24-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care

The percentage for 24-hour initial health screenings stood at **90 percent**, three percentage points higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 95 percent.

The majority of areas were in compliance with requirements for 24-hour health screening for children entering foster care. There were only ten children statewide in the three-month period who did not receive their 24-hour health screenings in a timely manner.

One issue included children who were placed in a county different from the county that took them into care. There was some apparent confusion about responsibility for securing the health screening. Area Managers, in areas where that was an issue, have taken corrective action to clarify that responsibility.

Another issue is finding physicians in all counties who will accept Medicaid and who will also perform the initial screening even if the Medicaid number has not been received. DCFS will work with the Division of Medical Services to determine what can be done to address this issue.

- Foster Home Re-evaluations

The percentage for foster home re-evaluations stood at **88 percent**, higher than the previous quarter (87%) but still below the goal of 95 percent.

Statewide compliance increased by one percentage point over the last quarter. Three areas increased their compliance, one remarkably. Two areas decreased their compliance. Those areas developed new monitoring methods for re-evaluations.

- Required Visits Made by Worker

The percentages for required weekly visits that were made during the quarter were **20 percent** in July, **18 percent** in August and **22 percent** in

September (compared to **28 percent** in April to **23 percent** in May and **24 percent** in June) and were also below the goal of 85 percent.

Required visits to children in foster care remained unacceptably low. As the QPR narrative explains, this only counts face-to-face visits by the child's worker in the foster home. Other staff, for instance an Aide, could visit the child in the home and it would not be counted as compliance. Or the worker could call the child or visit the child at school or in court and it would not count toward compliance.

DCFS acknowledges the importance of worker contact with children in foster care and believes that these visits should often be in the home. However, DCFS believes a change in policy that would recognize that some visits in other locations may also meet good practice objectives would be appropriate and have plans to look at making a change to our policy accordingly.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

This section describes the children who were subjects of maltreatment reports, were served in foster care and were provided adoption services.

There were no noteworthy areas this quarter. The different populations of children served this quarter were very similar to previous quarters.

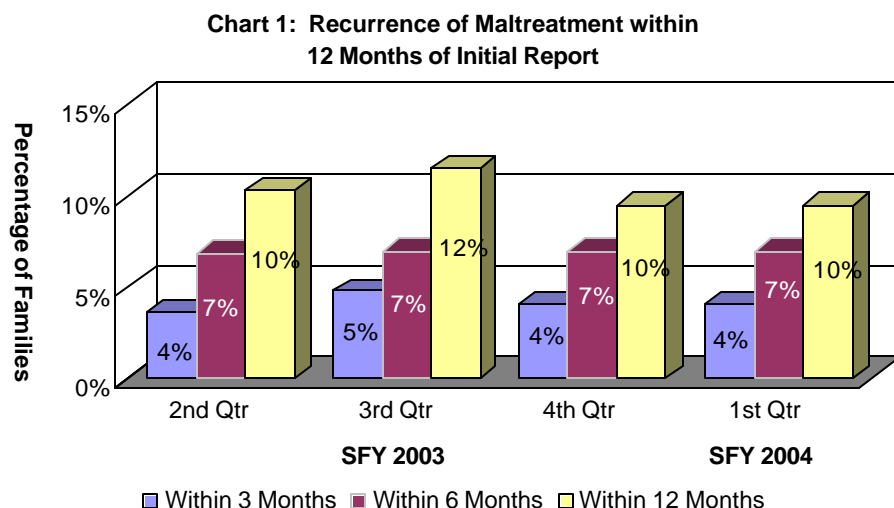
PART I: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Division has established nine performance measures to indicate levels of achievement of its major goals of child safety, family preservation and permanency:

- Percentage of families with true allegations of child maltreatment three months, six months and one year after a previous true report;
- Percentage of foster families with true reports of maltreatment;
- Percentage of children receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Service (IFS) who were abused or neglected within one year of the initiation of services;
- Percentage of children receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Service (IFS) who entered foster care within one year of the initiation of services;
- Percentage of children in foster care who returned home within eighteen months;
- Percentage of children in foster care who have experienced more than three placements within the past eighteen months;
- Percentage of siblings in placement who are placed together;
- Percentage of children living with adoptive families within twelve months of the termination of parental rights; and
- Children placed in a pre-adoptive home whose adoption was finalized within 12 months of entering a pre-adoptive placement.

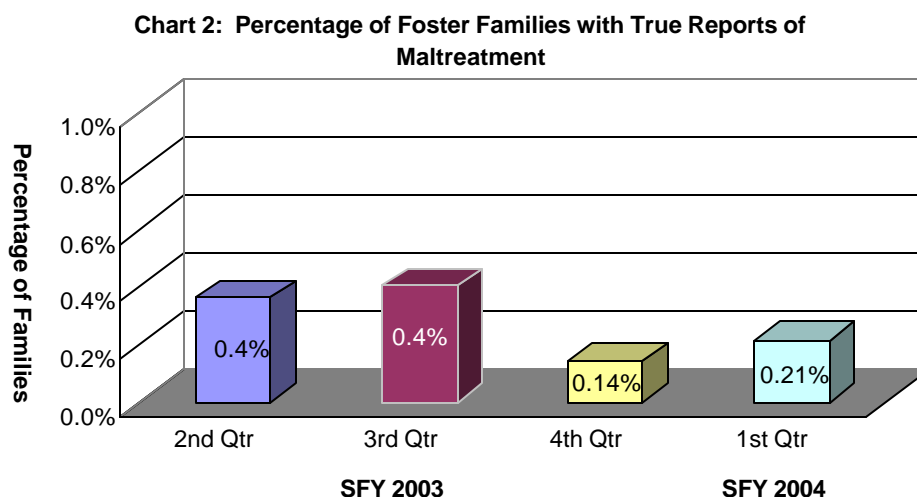
Percentage of Families with a True Allegation of Child Maltreatment Three Months, Six Months and One Year after a Previous True Report

There were 144 subsequent true reports within 12 months of an initial true report, 44 percent involved both the same perpetrator and the same type of maltreatment as the initial report¹.



Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment

Of the 22 foster home maltreatment reports received during the first quarter, three were found to be true. Based upon 1,423 active foster homes² during the quarter, the percentage of foster families with true reports of maltreatment was .21 percent.



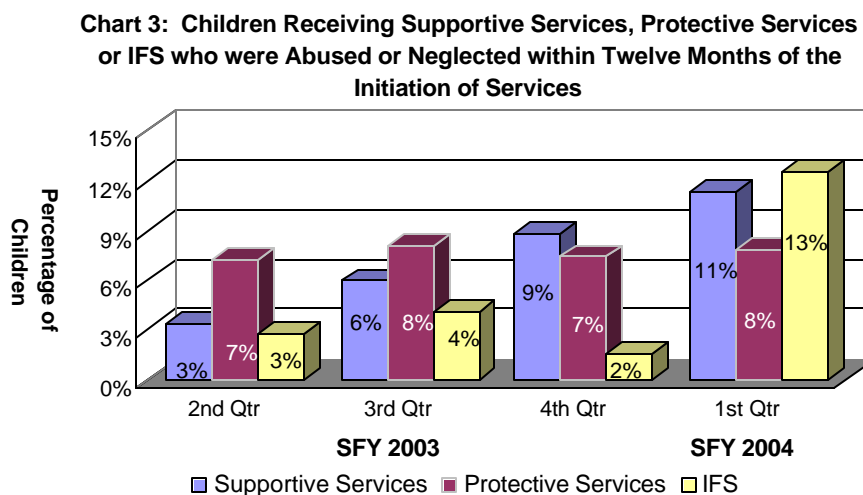
¹ The remaining 56 percent of the subsequent reports were distributed as follows: No repetition of perpetrator or type of abuse – 21%; Same perpetrator only – 4%; Same type of abuse only – 31%.

² This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Generally, families receiving supportive services have less severe problems, while families receiving Intensive Family Services (IFS) are by definition in imminent risk of having one or more children placed in foster care or already have children in foster care, with families receiving protective services falling somewhere between those extremes.

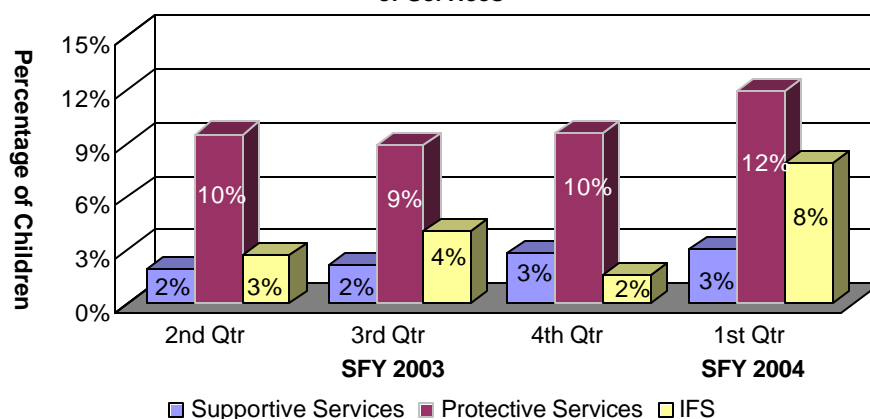
Of the 326 children who began receiving supportive services between July and September 2002, 11 percent (37) experienced a true report of maltreatment within one year. Eight percent (220) of the 2,786 children who began receiving protective services and 11 (13%) of the 88 children who began receiving IFS services during that same time were also involved in a true report within one year.



Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Ten of the 326 children who began receiving supportive services, 333 of the 2,786 children who began receiving protective services and seven of the 88 children who began receiving IFS services between July and September 2002 entered foster care within the year.

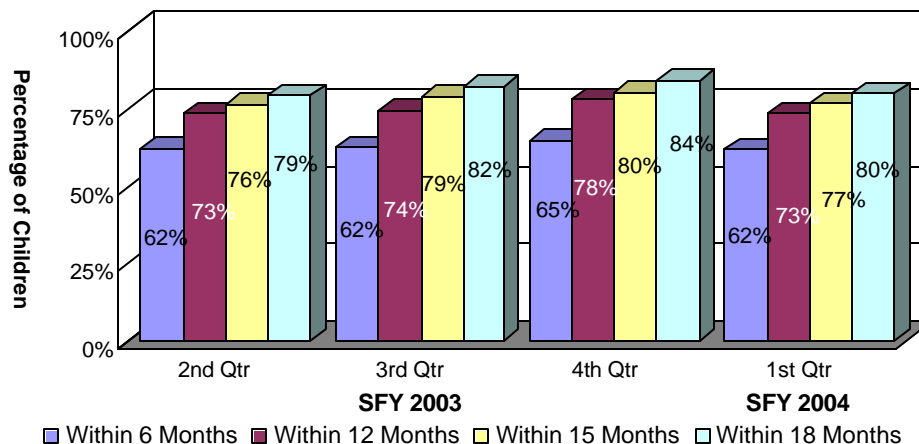
Chart 4: Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who Entered Foster Care within Twelve Months of the Initiation of Services



Percentage of Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months

There were 867 children who entered foster care during the quarter 18 months prior to the current quarter. Of those, 80 percent or 692 children returned home within 18 months of their entering into foster care.

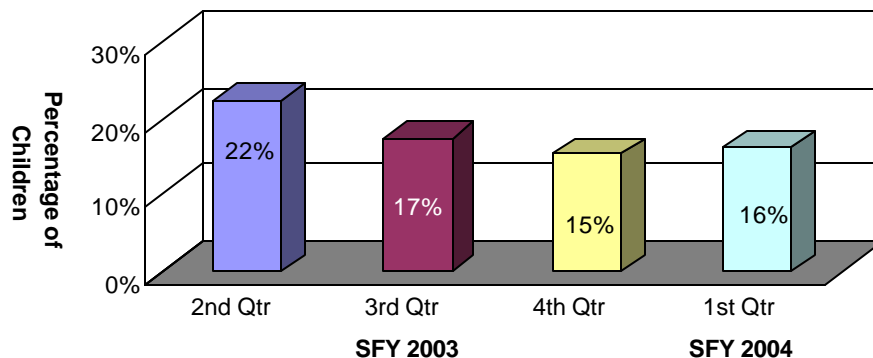
Chart 5: Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months



Percentage of Children in Foster Care who have Experienced More Than Three Placements within the Past Eighteen Months

Of the 867 children who entered foster care 18 months prior to the current quarter, 140 children (16%) have experienced more than three placements, one percentage point higher than the previous quarter. Of those same 867 children, 130 (15%) experienced more than three placements within 15 months of entering foster care. DCFS commissioned a special study on this issue that revealed children who experience the most placements are older children or children with behavioral problems³. The agency is working with the Division of Mental Health Services, the Division of Medical Services and the Council of Community Health Centers on the development of a more adequate system of services for children who experience these problems.

Chart 6: Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Three or More Placements within the Past Eighteen Months

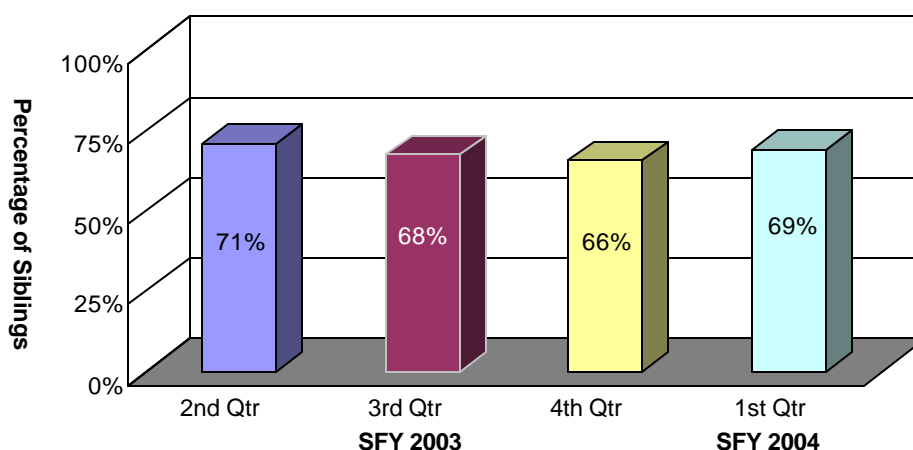


³ "Multiple Placements of Children in Foster Care," SFY 2003

Percentage of Siblings in Placement Who Are Placed Together

During the first quarter, there were 1,847 foster children with siblings who were also in care. Sixty-nine percent of those children (1,272 children) were placed with at least one of their siblings; higher than the previous quarter. Of those same 1,847 children, 847 (46%) were placed with all their siblings, which was the same as the previous quarter. These figures do not exclude children who have been placed separately for valid reasons such as safety issues or court orders.

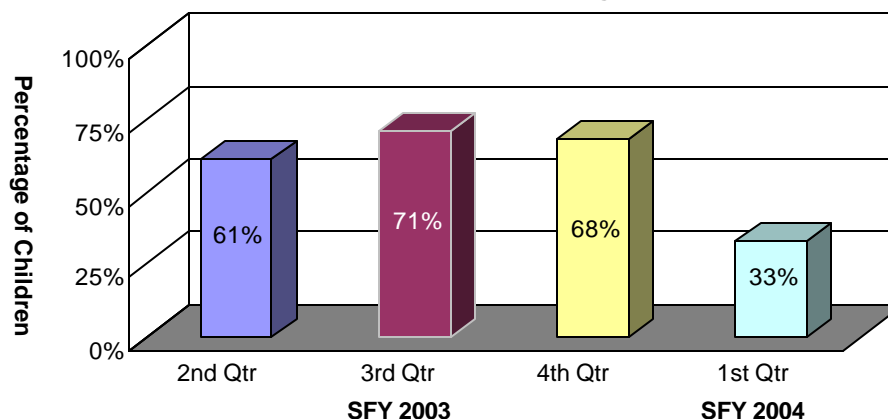
Chart 7: Siblings in Care who are Placed Together



Percentage of Children Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights

Of the 113 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated between July and September 2002, 37 children (33%) were placed in an adoptive home within 12 months of the termination of parental rights, which was lower than the previous quarter.

Chart 8: Children Living with Adoptive Families within 12 Months of the Termination of Parental Rights



Children Placed in a Pre-adoptive Home whose Adoption was Finalized within Twelve Months of Entering Placement

There were 66 children who were placed in a pre-adoptive home between July 1, 2002 and September 30, 2002. Of those, 50 children or 76 percent had a finalized adoption within 12 months of being placed in the pre-adoptive home.

Of the same 66 children, 11 children or 17 percent experienced a disruption. A disruption occurs when a child has been placed in a pre-adoptive home and the family or the child has decided not to proceed with the adoption and the child leaves the pre-adoptive home.

There were 14 children whose adoption was still pending finalization 12 months after their placement in an adoptive home.

**Table 1: Children Placed in a Pre-adoptive Home during Quarter One Year Ago
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Children Placed in a Pre-adoptive Home	66
Finalized Adoption	50
Disrupted Adoptive Placements	11
Children with a Disruption who were Re-placed in a Pre-adoptive Home	9
Still Pending at the End of the Quarter	14

PART II: COMPLIANCE INDEX

The Division has set compliance measures with guidance from the Joint Interim Committee on Children and Youth. An index is compiled by reporting the level of compliance in relation to these measures.

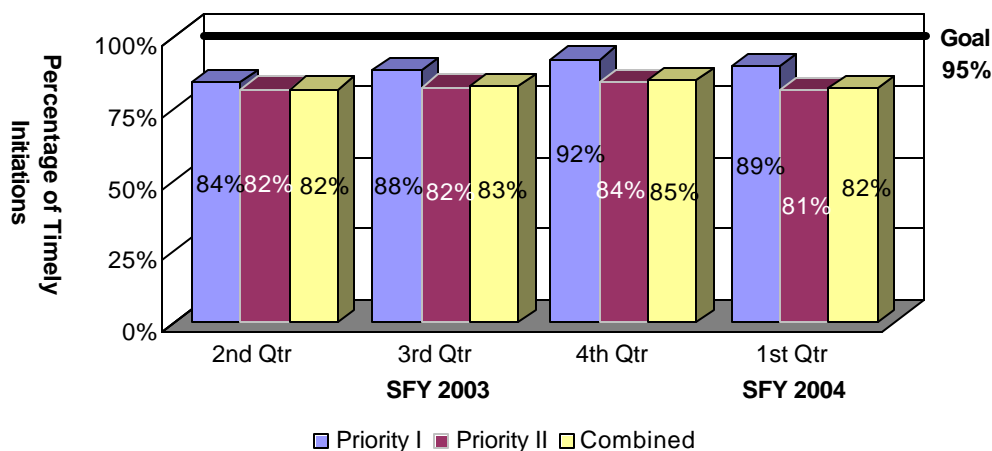
<u>Goal</u>	<u>Compliance Measure</u>
95%	<i>Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments.</i> Timely initiation means the investigator interviews or observes the victim child outside the presence of the alleged offender within 24 hours of any report of alleged severe maltreatment or within 72 hours otherwise.
90%	<i>Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments.</i> Timely completion means a determination must be made regarding an allegation of child maltreatment within 30 days of receipt of the allegation.
95%	<i>24-Hour Initial Health Screenings.</i> This screening is conducted within 24 hours after removal from the home on children who enter foster care due to an allegation of severe maltreatment or if there is evidence of acute illness or injury.
95%	<i>72-Hour Initial Health Screenings.</i> This screening is conducted within 72 hours after removal from the home on all children who enter foster care who are not subject to the 24-hour screening.
95%	<i>Comprehensive Health Assessments.</i> The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the physical and mental health status of all foster children and is to be completed within 60 days of a child entering foster care.
80 Homes	<i>Foster Home Recruitment.</i> DCFS must ensure a sufficient number and variety of foster homes meeting minimal standards and matched to the needs and characteristics of foster children are available. The goal is 80 homes for the quarter or 320 homes for the year.
95%	<i>Foster Home Re-evaluations.</i> DCFS must re-evaluate at least annually each foster home's ability to care for children.
85%	<i>Required Visits Made by Worker.</i> DCFS must provide data on the percentages of required weekly visits made by DCFS workers to children in foster care.

Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Whenever there is an allegation of child maltreatment, the Family Service Worker, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) staff member or other local law enforcement must interview or observe the victim child outside the presence of the alleged offender within 72 hours of the report (Priority II), unless there is an allegation of severe maltreatment, in which case the interview or observation must occur within 24 hours of the report (Priority I). There were 4,614 referrals for child maltreatment assessments during the first quarter. Of that number, 227 Priority I referrals and 3,080 Priority II referrals were assigned to DCFS for investigation. Of the DCFS Priority I referrals, 203 (89%) assessments were initiated within the required 24-hour period; of the DCFS Priority II referrals, 2,505 (81%) assessments were initiated within the required 72-hour period⁴. The compliance rates for both DCFS Priority I and II initiations were below the 95 percent goal and resulted in a combined compliance rate of 82 percent, also below the goal. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

As noted previously, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police is also responsible for handling child abuse assessments. CACD was responsible for 1,307 of the 4,614 referrals that came in during the quarter – 1,234 Priority I referrals and 73 Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I referrals, 1,194 assessments (97%) were initiated timely. Of the Priority II referrals, 69 assessments (95%) were initiated in a timely manner.

Chart 9: Timely Initiations of Assessments

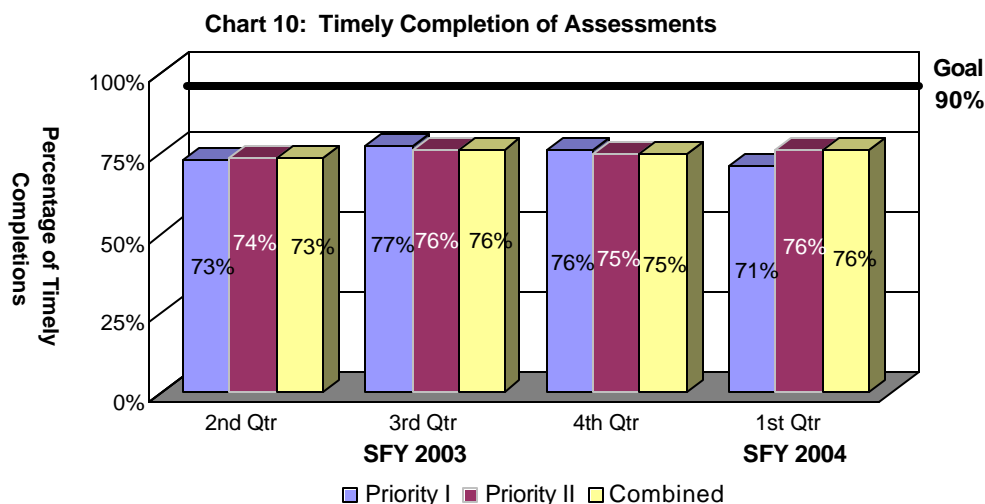


⁴ DCFS had 203 Priority I referrals and 2,505 Priority II referrals that were initiated timely. Of those, 16 Priority I (8%) and 614 Priority II referrals (25%) were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence. CACD had 1,194 Priority I referrals and 69 Priority II referrals that were initiated timely. Of those, 10 Priority I (1%) and 5 Priority II (7%) referrals were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence.

Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Of the 227 DCFS Priority I assessments initiated, 162 (71%) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the 3,080 DCFS Priority II assessments initiated, 2,341 (76%) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the 3,307 assessments assigned to DCFS, 2,503 assessments were completed in a timely fashion. This resulted in a compliance rate of 76 percent, higher than the fourth quarter but below the goal of 90 percent. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

As referenced earlier, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police was responsible for 1,307 of the 4,614 referrals that came in during the quarter – 1,234 Priority I referrals and 73 Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I assessments, 1,194 (97%) were completed in a timely fashion. Of the Priority II assessments, 69 (95%) were completed in a timely fashion.

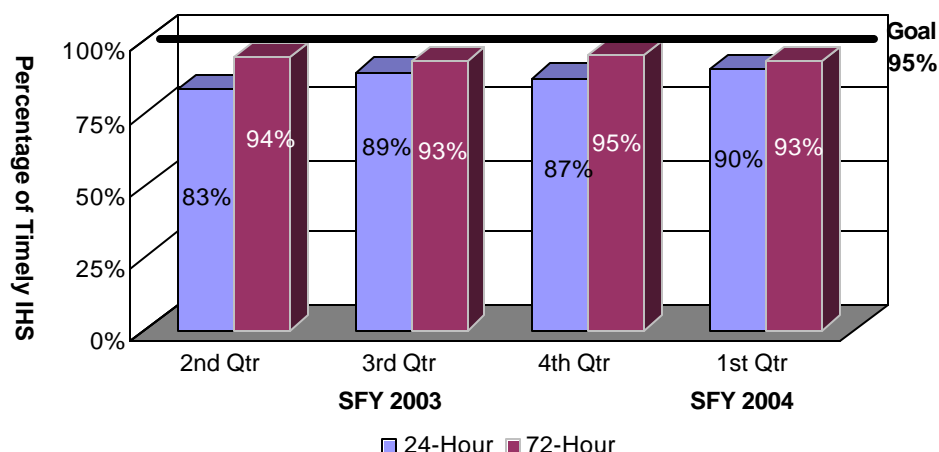


24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care

If a child enters foster care due to an allegation of severe maltreatment or if there is evidence of acute illness or injury, an initial health screening must be conducted within 24 hours of the child's removal from the home. Of the 102 children who required the 24-hour health screening during the first quarter, 92 children (90%) received the screening in a timely manner. The compliance rate was higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 95 percent. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

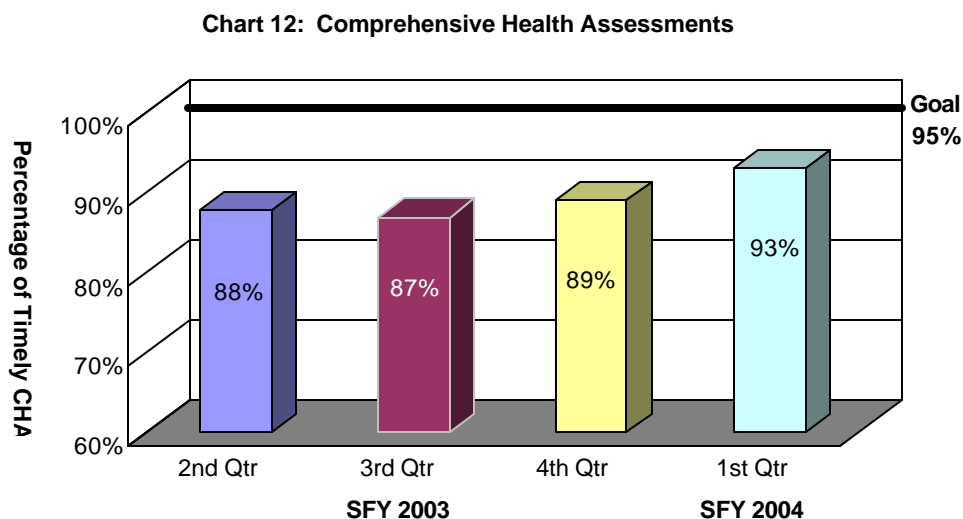
All children who enter foster care and who do not require the initial 24-hour health screening (*i.e.*, there is no allegation of severe maltreatment) must undergo an initial health screening within 72 hours of removal from the home. Of the 713 children who required their health screening within 72 hours, 662 children (93%) received their screenings in a timely manner, which was lower than the previous quarter and did not meet the goal of 95 percent.

Chart 11: 24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings



Comprehensive Health Assessments

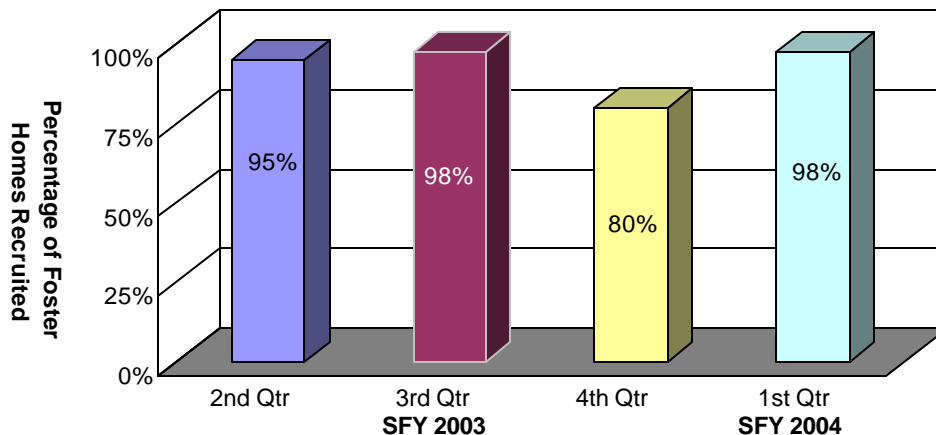
All children who enter foster care must receive a comprehensive health assessment to evaluate their physical and mental health status within 60 days of entering foster care. There were 391 children who entered foster care between May 2, 2003 and August 1, 2003 and who remained in care for at least 60 days. Of those, 362 children received their comprehensive health assessment within 60 days after entering care. The resulting compliance rate was 93 percent, higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 95 percent.



Foster Home Recruitment

There were 78 new foster homes recruited during the first quarter, only two fewer than the goal of 80 new homes. This compliance rate of 98 percent was substantially higher than the previous quarter (80%).

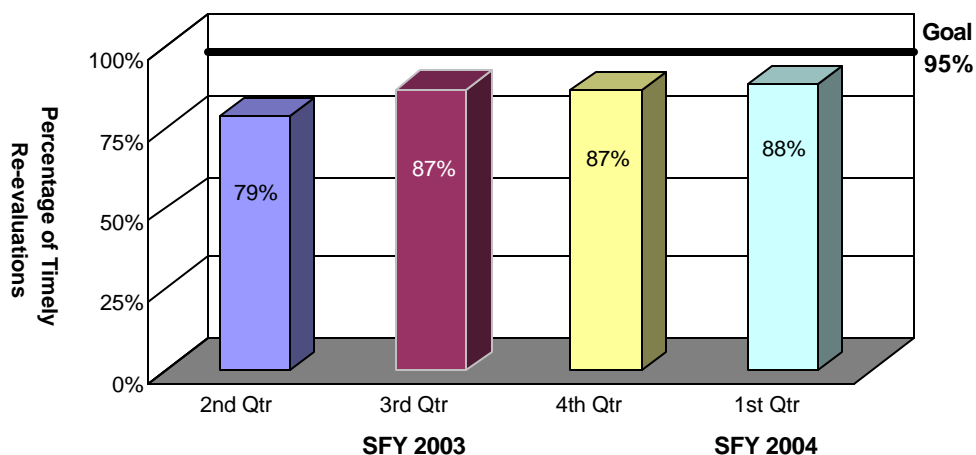
Chart 13: Foster Home Recruitment



Foster Home Re-evaluations

DCFS is required to re-evaluate at least annually each foster home's ability to care for children. Of the 927 DHS foster homes that were active at the end of the first quarter, 820 homes had a completed current re-evaluation. The resulting compliance rate was 88 percent, higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 95 percent compliance. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

Chart 14: Foster Home Re-evaluations

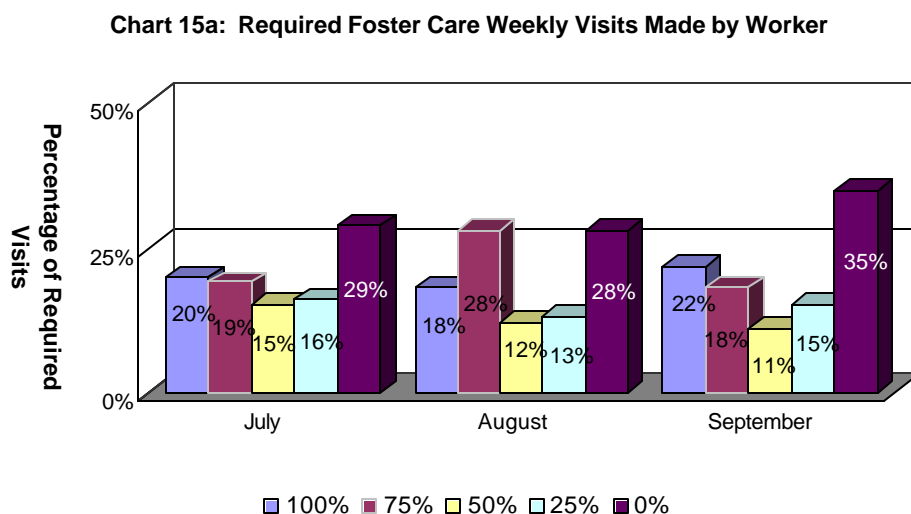


Required Visits Made by Worker

DCFS policy requires that caseworkers make regular visits to children in foster care. The appropriate frequency is considered to be no less than weekly. Supervisors may approve a deviation from this frequency based on the needs of the child and the circumstances of the child's placement.

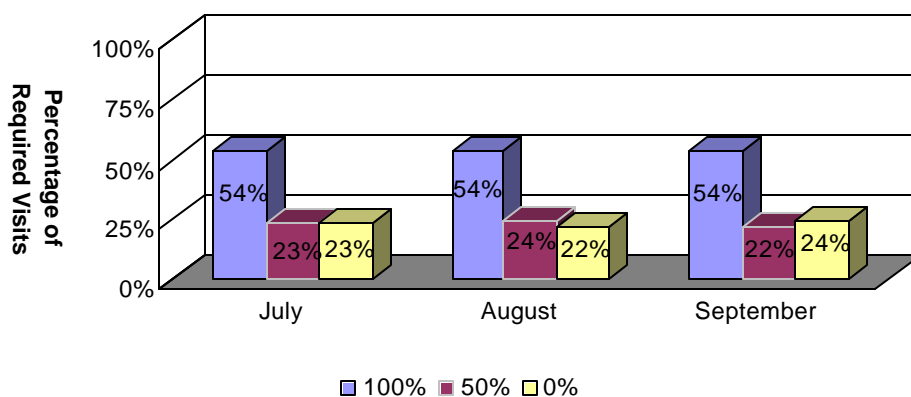
Additionally, the information reported here does not include all visits made to or on behalf of children in foster care. The definition of what is measured here is very narrow. The caseworker must have chosen to document the purpose of the visit from a pick list of several different types of purposes of visits. In order to meet the necessary criteria, the visit must have occurred in the home. Visits with the child made at school, during a doctor's visit or while providing transportation would not be counted in this report. Therefore, this section does not purport to completely report the frequency of all visits made with children in foster care, but only those visits that meet the appropriate criteria. Each of the graphs on this and the following page shows the data for each month during the quarter.

The information reported below is based on visits made to children for whom weekly visits are necessary. The percentages of children needing weekly visits who received all of the required visits decreased from 20 percent in July to 18 percent in August and then increased to 22 percent in September (compared to 28 percent in April, 23 percent in May and 24 percent in June). (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)



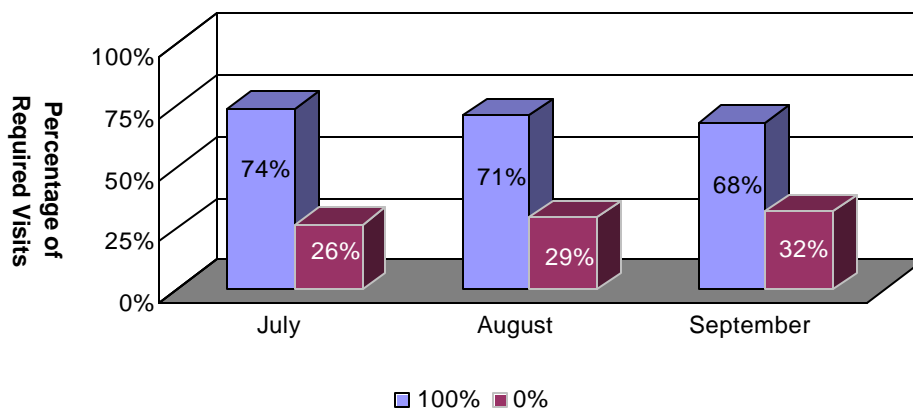
As previously stated, supervisors may approve a deviation from the weekly visit requirement based on the needs of the child and the circumstances of the child's placement. The information reported below is based on visits made to children for whom bi-weekly and monthly visits are necessary. As the chart illustrates below, compliance with bi-weekly visitation requirements remained the same throughout the quarter.

Chart 15b: Required Foster Care Bi-Weekly Visits Made by Worker



As the chart illustrates below, the percentage of cases meeting monthly visitation requirements decreased from 74 percent in July to 71 percent in August and further decreased to 68 percent in September.

Chart 15c: Required Foster Care Monthly Visits Made by Worker



PART III: DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION AND SERVICES

This section describes the number and status of maltreatment assessments, children who were served in foster care and children who were provided adoption services.

Section I outlines the characteristics of children, such as by age, gender and ethnicity, in true maltreatment reports and specifically compares state ethnicity data to that of national data. Additionally, this section describes the types of allegations in maltreatment reports.

Section II describes the foster care population, specifically, the characteristics of children in foster care, entries and exits of children in foster care, reasons children came into care, lengths of stay for children in foster care as well as children in relative care, placements of children in foster care and the number of placements children experience while in care.

Section III focuses on adoption data such as the characteristics of children available for adoption, current placement of those children, characteristics of children placed in adoptive homes, children whose parents have had parental rights terminated but not placed in an adoptive home, finalized adoptions and adoption subsidies.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

Section I: True Child Maltreatment Reports

Child Maltreatment Assessments

There were 4,614 maltreatment assessments assigned during the first quarter. Of those, 1,252 reports or 27 percent were found to be true, lower than the national percentage (28%)⁵. There were 1,921 victim children involved in the 1,252 true reports during the quarter.

Table 2: Child Maltreatment Assessments

	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
4 th Quarter	5,630	1,612	29%
1st Quarter	4,614	1,252	27%

⁵ Source: Child Maltreatment 2001, Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports

There were 1,921 victim children involved in true reports during the first quarter. The table below outlines the demographic information for the victim children during the quarter⁶.

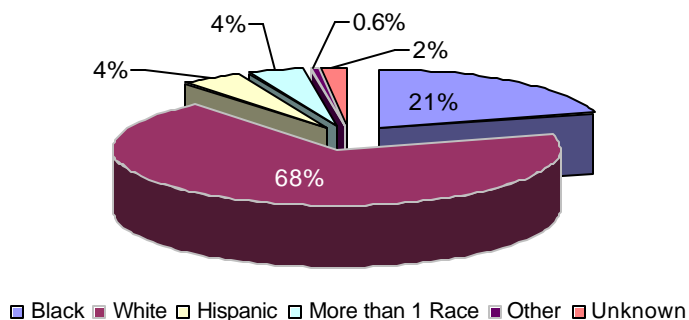
Table 3: Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports
1st Quarter SFY 2004

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	58	24	0	0	0	5	8	95
	Male	85	23	0	0	0	7	3	118
2 to 5	Female	179	43	1	0	0	16	14	253
	Male	168	54	2	0	0	20	9	253
6 to 11	Female	223	70	2	0	0	11	10	316
	Male	200	76	1	0	0	11	9	297
12 to 15	Female	211	66	1	2	1	10	14	305
	Male	87	22	0	0	0	1	4	114
16 to 18	Female	77	10	0	0	1	4	3	95
	Male	26	12	0	0	0	0	1	39
18+	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total*		1,315	400	7	2	2	85	75	1,886

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 35 children.

Sixty-eight percent of children involved in true maltreatment reports were white, while 21 percent were black.

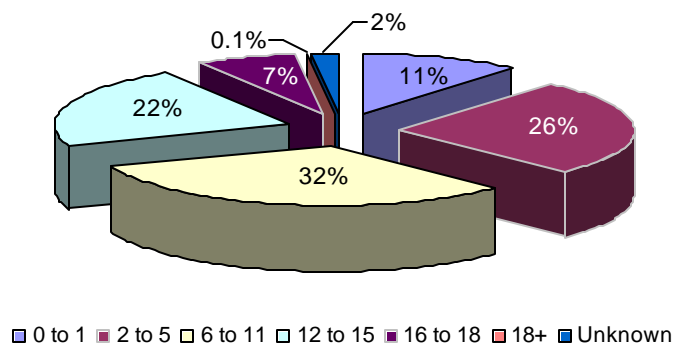
Chart 16a: Ethnicity of Children in True Reports



⁶ The table above, and each subsequent demographic table, divides up these other races and ethnicities into the following categories: "Hispanic," "More than One Race," "Asian" (includes Indonesian, Cambodian, Hmong and Vietnamese), "AIAN" (includes Native American, Alaskan Native and American Indian) and "NAPI" (includes Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders).

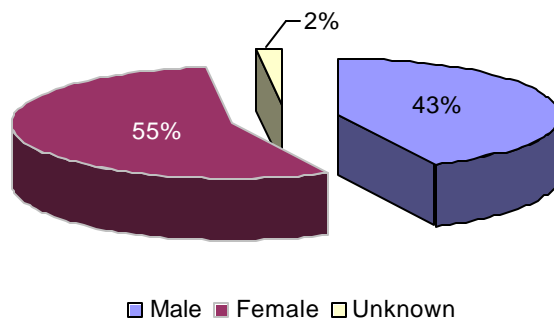
Children between the ages of six and 11 represented the largest group of children involved in true maltreatment reports.

Chart 16b: Ages of Children in True Reports



There were more female children (55%) involved in true maltreatment reports than males (43%)

Chart 16c: Gender of Children in True Reports



Children Involved in Allegations of True Maltreatment Reports

The majority of the 1,921 children involved in true maltreatment reports (60%) were involved in neglect allegations during the quarter, followed by sexual abuse allegations (30%) and then physical abuse allegations (19%)⁷.

Table 4: Percentage of Children Involved in True Allegations of Maltreatment

	1st Quarter SFY 2004	
Neglect	1,152	60%
Physical Abuse	359	19%
Sexual Abuse	572	30%

⁷ The total number of children represented will outnumber the total children involved in true maltreatment reports because a child can be involved in more than one allegation.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

Section II: Foster Care

Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

There were 3,938 children in foster care during the first quarter. This includes children who have remained in care from previous quarters as well as children who came into care during the quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of children who were in care during the quarter.

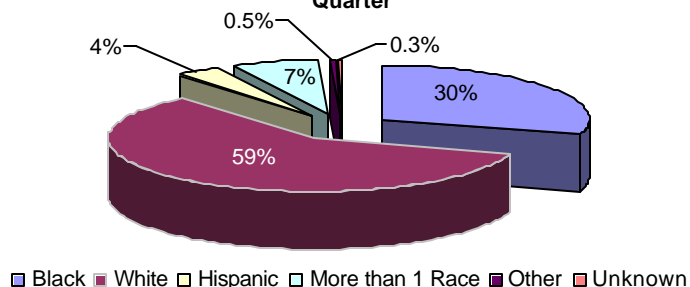
Table 5: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care during the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	129	59	0	2	0	15	12	217
	Male	136	50	0	0	2	12	14	214
2 to 5	Female	249	111	1	0	0	27	24	412
	Male	271	127	2	0	0	16	32	448
6 to 11	Female	255	133	2	0	0	8	43	441
	Male	318	149	1	1	0	17	32	518
12 to 15	Female	286	145	0	1	0	19	40	491
	Male	267	152	2	1	0	9	32	463
16 to 18	Female	205	103	0	3	0	12	16	339
	Male	137	68	0	0	0	8	11	224
18+	Female	43	38	0	0	0	1	2	84
	Male	40	31	0	1	0	0	3	75
Total*		2,336	1,166	8	9	2	144	261	3,926

*Demographic information had not been entered into CHRIS for 12 children.

The chart below shows 59 percent of the children in foster care during the quarter were white, while 30 percent of the children were black. National data reveals that only 37 percent of the children in the national foster care system were white, while 38 percent of the children were black⁸.

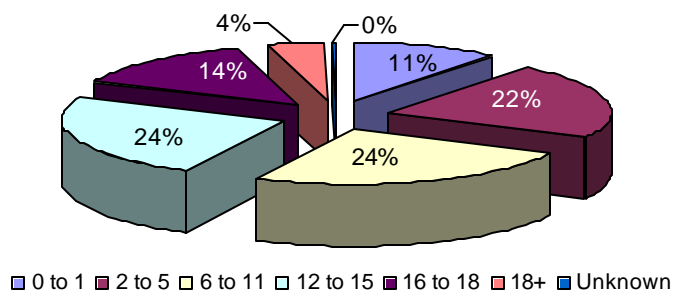
Chart 17a: Ethnicity of Children in Care during the Quarter



⁸ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

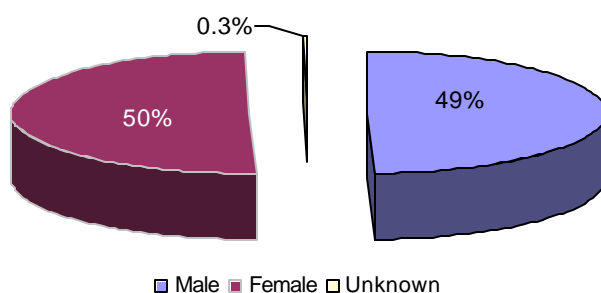
The following chart shows that children between the ages of six and 11 and children between the ages of 12 and 15 represented the highest number of children who were in care during the quarter.

Chart 17b: Ages of Children in Foster Care during the Quarter



The following chart shows the gender of the children foster care during the quarter. Forty-nine percent of the children were male, while 50 percent were female.

Chart 17c: Gender of Children in Foster Care during the Quarter



There were 3,046 children in foster care at the end of the quarter, a three percent increase from the 2,951 children in care at the end of fourth quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of the children in foster care at the end of the first quarter.

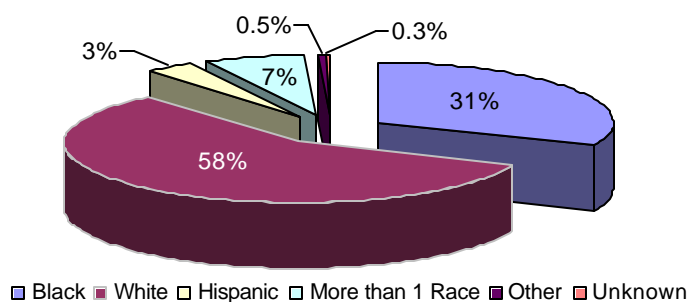
**Table 6: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care at the end of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	94	47	0	0	0	12	8	161
	Male	88	36	0	0	2	10	12	148
2 to 5	Female	177	86	1	0	0	19	18	301
	Male	200	93	2	0	0	13	20	328
6 to 11	Female	182	110	2	0	0	6	35	335
	Male	244	114	1	0	0	7	25	391
12 to 15	Female	221	129	0	1	0	12	37	400
	Male	211	133	2	1	0	8	26	381
16 to 18	Female	190	107	0	3	0	10	15	325
	Male	134	75	0	1	0	6	13	229
18+	Female	8	10	0	0	0	0	1	19
	Male	7	13	0	0	0	0	0	20
Total*		1,756	953	8	6	2	103	210	3,038

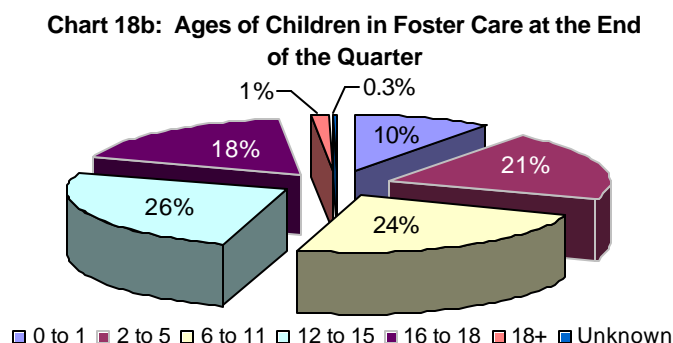
*Demographic information had not been entered into CHRIS for 8 children.

The chart below shows 58 percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were white, while 31 percent of the children were black.

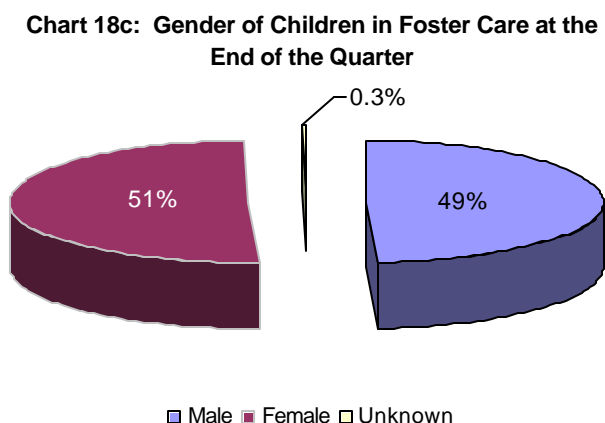
Chart 18a: Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter



The following chart shows that children aged 12 to 15 represented the highest number of children who were in care at the end of the quarter.



The following chart shows the gender of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter. Fifty-one percent of the children were female, while 49 percent were male.



Entries into Foster Care

The data showed that 893 children entered foster care during the first quarter, a decrease from the fourth quarter (1,028).

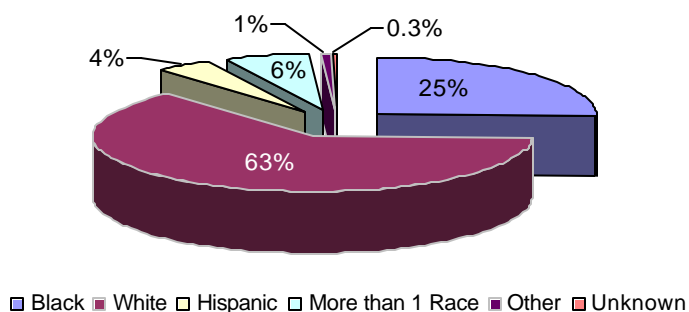
**Table 7: Characteristics of Children Entering Foster Care during the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	52	17	0	0	0	4	4	77
	Male	61	19	0	0	0	3	8	91
2 to 5	Female	76	23	1	0	0	7	6	113
	Male	81	29	2	0	0	4	10	126
6 to 11	Female	61	33	2	0	0	2	4	102
	Male	70	28	1	1	0	4	7	111
12 to 15	Female	72	25	0	0	0	5	9	111
	Male	45	26	0	1	0	2	4	78
16 to 18	Female	33	17	0	0	0	3	1	54
	Male	13	10	0	0	0	3	1	27
Total*		564	227	6	2	0	37	54	890

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for three children.

The chart below shows 63 percent of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were white, while 25 percent of the children were black. National data indicates that 46 percent of the children who entered care were white, 28 percent were black and 16 percent were hispanic⁹.

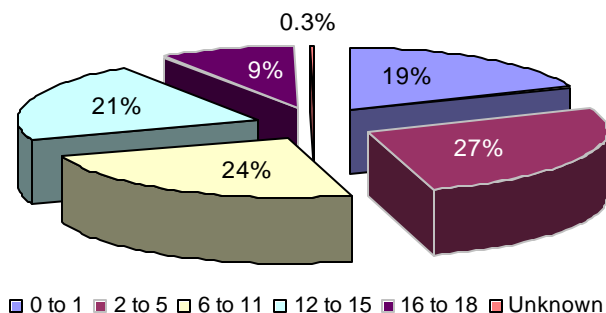
Chart 19a: Ethnicity of Children who Entered Care



⁹ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

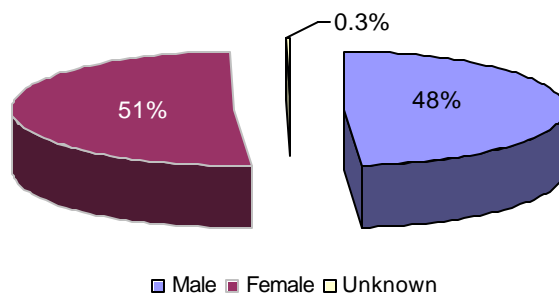
The following chart shows that children between the ages of two and five represented the greatest percentage of children (27%) who entered foster care during the quarter.

Chart 19b: Ages of Children who Entered Care



The following chart shows the gender of the children who entered foster care during the first quarter. Fifty-one percent of the children were female and 48 percent were male.

Chart 19c: Gender of Children who Entered Care

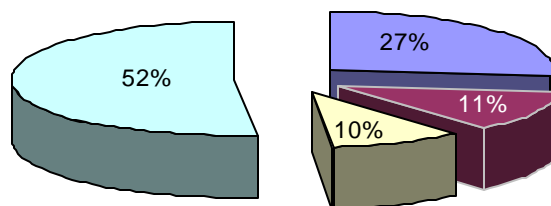


**Table 8: Reasons Children in Care during the Quarter were Placed in Foster Care by Age
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	Total
Neglect	371	559	647	387	90	2,054
Substance Abuse	139	182	266	221	60	868
Parent Incarceration	102	190	204	143	24	663
Physical Abuse	127	159	211	149	53	699
Child's Behavior	4	23	130	330	114	601
Abandonment	48	76	113	122	51	410
Inadequate Housing	125	210	242	145	29	751
Caretaker Illness	112	93	139	173	41	558
Sexual Abuse	19	81	156	165	43	464
Truancy	3	13	30	82	29	157
Child's Disability	14	8	18	12	7	59
Parent Death	0	0	7	14	3	24
Sex Offender	5	2	7	36	4	54
Relinquishment	7	3	12	18	2	42
Managed Mental Health	0	1	6	13	1	21
Other	26	25	44	54	11	160
Total*	1,102	1,625	2,232	2,064	562	7,585

*There are more reasons for entry than children in care because a child may have more than one reason for entry.

Chart 20: Reasons Children in Care during the Quarter were Placed in Foster Care



■ Neglect ■ Substance Abuse ■ Inadequate Housing ■ All Other Reasons

The reasons for entry into foster care for the children, who were in foster care at the end of the quarter (Table 9), were very similar to those found in Table 8. Neglect and substance abuse¹⁰ were the most prevalent reasons children entered care for this “point in time” population.

Table 9: Reasons Children Placed in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004

	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
Neglect	<i>Female</i>	375	178	0	0	0	25	46	624
	<i>Male</i>	408	188	0	0	2	22	41	661
Substance Abuse	<i>Female</i>	177	66	3	0	0	4	16	266
	<i>Male</i>	161	72	3	0	0	4	19	259
Parent Incarceration	<i>Female</i>	114	47	3	0	0	9	17	190
	<i>Male</i>	114	34	3	0	0	6	7	164
Physical Abuse	<i>Female</i>	98	95	3	0	0	11	7	214
	<i>Male</i>	108	82	4	0	0	4	10	208
Child's Behavior	<i>Female</i>	120	54	0	2	0	2	10	188
	<i>Male</i>	134	68	1	1	0	7	15	226
Abandonment	<i>Female</i>	53	63	0	0	0	9	8	133
	<i>Male</i>	66	58	0	1	1	5	4	135
Inadequate Housing	<i>Female</i>	126	65	0	1	0	12	25	229
	<i>Male</i>	143	76	0	0	0	10	18	247
Caretaker Illness	<i>Female</i>	116	48	0	1	0	11	8	184
	<i>Male</i>	128	46	0	0	1	7	14	196
Sexual Abuse	<i>Female</i>	143	48	0	1	0	11	16	219
	<i>Male</i>	47	13	0	0	0	3	8	71
Truancy	<i>Female</i>	37	26	0	1	0	1	2	67
	<i>Male</i>	22	16	0	0	0	1	3	42
Child's Disability	<i>Female</i>	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	16
	<i>Male</i>	19	9	0	0	0	0	0	28
Parent Death	<i>Female</i>	6	3	0	0	0	1	2	12
	<i>Male</i>	2	7	0	0	0	0	1	10
Sex Offender	<i>Female</i>	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
	<i>Male</i>	23	5	0	0	0	2	1	31
Relinquishment	<i>Female</i>	6	9	0	0	0	0	2	17
	<i>Male</i>	11	5	0	0	0	0	2	18
Managed Mental Health	<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
	<i>Male</i>	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	6
Other	<i>Female</i>	15	21	0	0	0	0	1	37
	<i>Male</i>	22	22	0	0	0	0	3	47
Total*		2,819	1,431	20	8	4	168	308	4,758

*There are more reasons for entry than children in care because a child may have more than one reason for entry.

¹⁰ Of the 525 reasons for entry attributed to substance abuse, substance abuse by children accounted for 34 reasons for entry (6%), while substance abuse by parents accounted for 491 reasons for entry (94%).

Exits from Foster Care

There were 951 children who left foster care during the quarter. The most prevalent reason children left foster care was for reunification with parents.

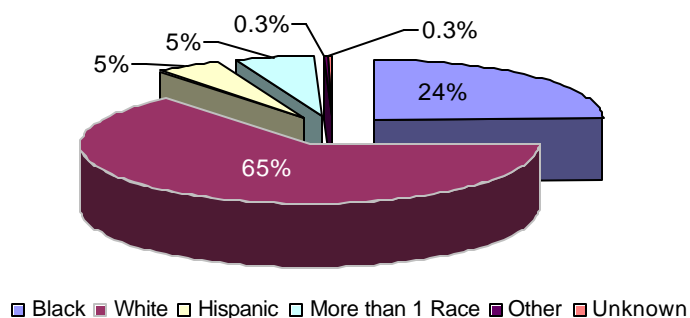
**Table 10: Characteristics of Children Exiting Foster Care during the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	36	14	0	2	0	3	4	59
	Male	49	14	0	0	0	2	3	68
2 to 5	Female	75	31	0	0	0	9	6	121
	Male	76	35	0	0	0	6	12	129
6 to 11	Female	74	29	0	0	0	2	8	113
	Male	82	37	0	1	0	10	7	137
12 to 15	Female	69	16	0	0	0	7	3	95
	Male	60	20	0	0	0	1	6	87
16 to 18	Female	59	21	0	0	0	3	2	85
	Male	32	13	0	0	0	2	1	48
18+	Female	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Male	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total*		616	232	0	3	0	45	52	948

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 3 children.

Of the 951 children who left foster care, 65 percent were white, while 24 percent of the children who left care were black. National data indicates that 45 percent of the children who left foster care were white and 30 percent were black¹¹.

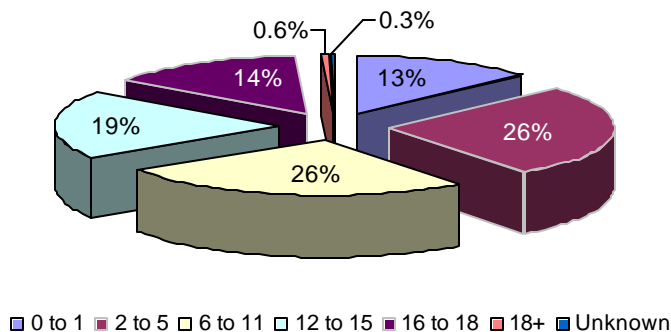
Chart 21a: Ethnicity of Children who Exited Care



¹¹ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

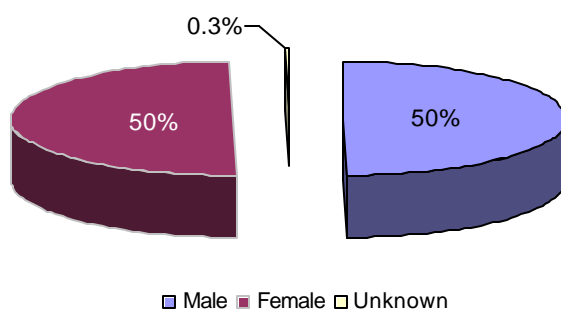
The following chart shows that children between the ages of six and 11 and children between the ages of two and five represented the highest percentage of children (26%) who left foster care during the quarter.

Chart 21b: Ages of Children who Exited Care



The gender of the children who left care during the quarter was evenly divided, 50 percent were male and 50 percent were female.

Chart 21c: Gender of Children who Exited Care

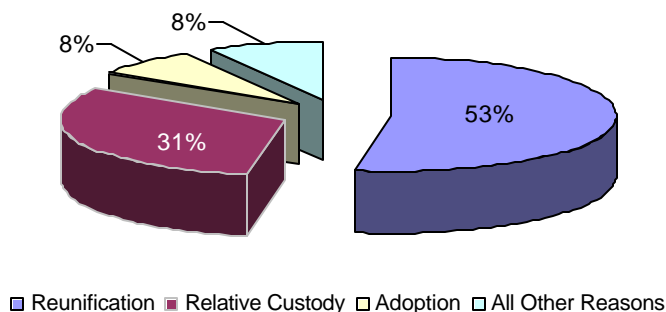


**Table 11: Reasons Children Exited Foster Care by Age
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Reason	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	Over 18	
Reunification	61	131	140	114	56	0	502
Relative Custody	63	84	78	52	18	0	295
Adoption	2	28	26	12	6	0	74
Child Aged Out	0	0	0	0	39	7	46
Non-Relative Custody	0	8	6	2	9	0	25
Emancipation	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Custody Transfer	1	0	0	1	2	0	4
Death of Child	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Total	128	251	250	182	133	7	951

The most prevalent reason children left foster care during the quarter was for reunification (53%). The second most prevalent reason a child left care was for relative custody (31%), followed by adoption (8%). National data indicated the three most prevalent reasons children left care were reunification (57%), adoption (18%) and relative care (10 %) ¹².

Chart 22: Most Prevalent Reasons Children Left Care



¹² Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care

The Division has two primary goals for children in foster care: that they are safe and that they are placed in a permanent home. The second of these concerns is expressed by setting a permanency goal for each child in foster care. For children in care at the end of the first quarter, more children had the goal of returning home than any other goal. National data reveal very similar figures to those shown here¹³.

**Table 12: Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care
4th Quarter SFY 2003 – 1st Quarter SFY 2004**

	4th Quarter		1st Quarter		National
Return Home	1,443	46%	1,384	45%	44%
Adoption	759	24%	811	27%	22%
Independence	537	17%	537	18%	n/a
Remain at Home	150	5%	113	4%	n/a
Relative Care	88	3%	104	3%	5%
Guardianship	9	.3%	12	.4%	3%
Emancipation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6%
Long Term Care	0	0%	0	0%	8%
Not Yet Established	160	5%	85	3%	11%
Total*	3,146	100%	3,046	100%	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

¹³ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2001 (10/01/00 to 9/30/01) as of March 2003.

Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care

For the 3,938 children in care during the quarter, 55 percent had been in care less than one year. Comparison to national data indicates that children in Arkansas' foster care system stay in care a decidedly shorter amount of time¹⁴.

**Table 13a: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

	Number	Percentage	National
Less than 30 days	565	14%	4%
30-90 Days	458	12%	17%
3-6 Months	535	14%	
6-12 Months	616	16%	15%
12-24 Months	760	19%	20%
24-36 Months	426	11%	12%
36+ Months	578	15%	32%
Total*	3,938	100%	100%

**Table 13b: Length of Stay of Children in Relative Care
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

	Number	Percentage*
Less than 30 days	1	1%
30-90 Days	4	5%
3-6 Months	3	4%
6-12 Months	11	13%
12-24 Months	29	35%
24-36 Months	9	11%
36+ Months	26	31%
Total*	83	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Table 13c: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care (Excluding Relative Care)
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

	Number	Percentage*
Less than 30 days	564	15%
30-90 Days	454	12%
3-6 Months	532	14%
6-12 Months	605	16%
12-24 Months	731	19%
24-36 Months	417	11%
36+ Months	552	14%
Total	3,855	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

¹⁴ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2001 (10/01/00 to 9/30/01) as of March 2003.

Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care

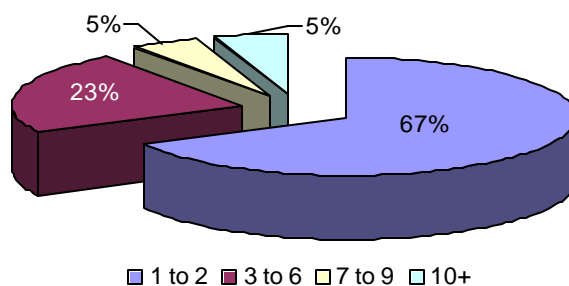
For the first quarter of SFY 2004, 67 percent of the children in care at the end of the quarter had experienced less than three placements, a slight increase from the previous quarter (65%).

**Table 14: Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care
4th Quarter SFY 2003 – 1st Quarter SFY 2004**

	4th Quarter		1st Quarter	
1-2 Placements	2,052	65%	2,046	67%
3-6 Placements	664	21%	692	23%
7-9 Placements	166	5%	146	5%
10+ Placements	264	8%	162	5%
Total*	3,146	100%	3,046	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Chart 23: Number of Placements for Children in Care at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements

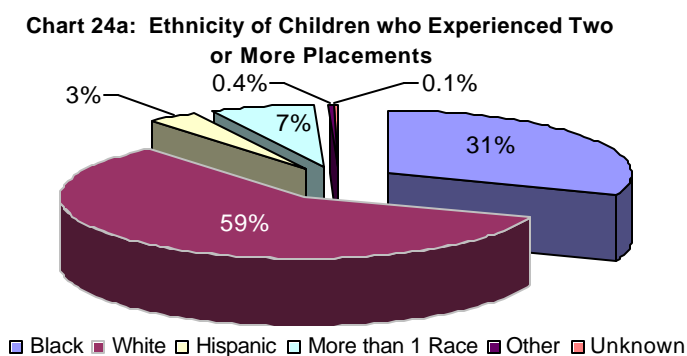
There were 3,046 children in care at the end of the quarter. Of those, 1,425 children experienced two or more placements while in foster care.

**Table 15: Characteristics of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	16	6	0	0	0	6	4	32
	Male	23	8	0	0	0	0	1	32
2 to 5	Female	61	32	0	0	0	4	4	101
	Male	65	21	0	0	0	5	5	96
6 to 11	Female	120	55	0	0	0	6	13	194
	Male	88	43	0	0	0	2	18	151
12 to 15	Female	132	73	1	0	0	5	15	226
	Male	130	76	0	1	0	5	18	230
16 to 18	Female	87	53	0	0	0	5	13	158
	Male	109	61	0	3	0	7	10	190
18+	Female	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Male	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total		835	437	1	4	0	45	101	1,423

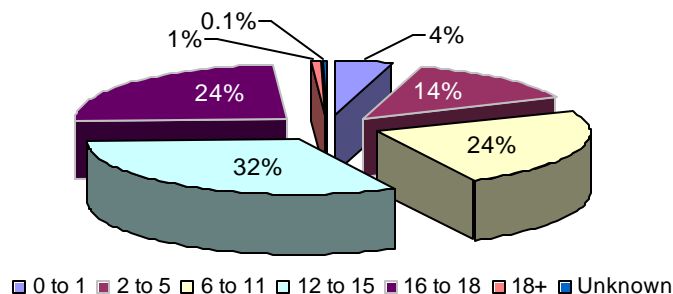
*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 2 children.

Fifty-nine percent of the children who experienced two or more placements were white, while 31 percent were black.



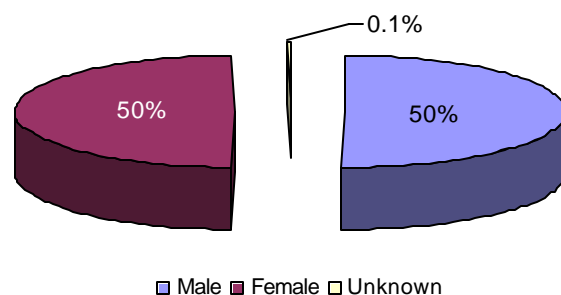
The largest group of children who experienced two or more placements were children between the ages of 12 and 15.

Chart 24b: Ages of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



The gender of children who experienced two or more placements was evenly divided. Fifty percent of the children were female and 50 percent were male.

Chart 24c: Gender of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



Current Placement of Children in Foster Care

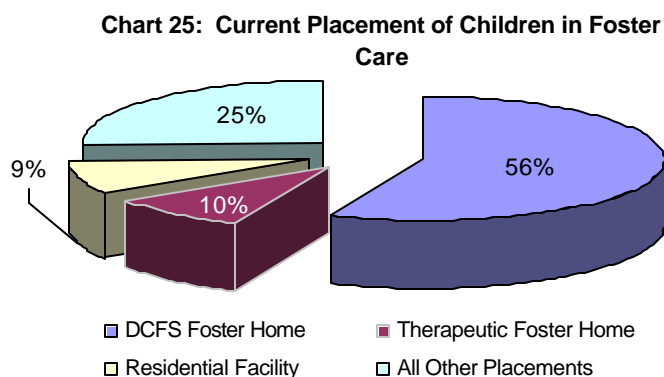
More foster children were placed in DCFS foster homes (56%) at the end of the first quarter than in any other type of foster care placement.

Table 16: Current Placement of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter

Placement	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	Over 18	
DCFS Foster Home	259	489	416	315	173	45	1,697
Relative Care	6	19	27	25	1	1	79
Therapeutic Foster Home	1	32	120	98	45	4	300
Specialized Community Home	0	5	19	34	55	9	122
Adoptive Home*	25	45	55	26	3	0	154
Emergency Shelter	2	10	15	34	25	0	86
Residential Facility	1	4	37	128	92	1	263
Youth Services	0	0	0	12	11	0	23
Runaway	1	0	0	22	41	0	64
Trial Home Visit	13	26	28	26	11	0	104
Hospital/Medical	1	3	7	32	19	1	63
Community Service Organization	0	0	0	3	4	2	9
Sexual Offender Treatment	0	0	0	10	4	0	14
Detention	0	0	0	5	6	0	11
Independent Living	0	0	0	0	10	15	25
Medical Provider	0	0	0	3	3	1	7
Mental Health Provider	0	0	3	7	8	0	18
Education	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
ICPC/Adoptive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown**	1	0	0	1	2	0	4
Total	310	633	727	782	515	79	3,046

*Non-finalized Adoptions.

**Unknown due to data entry after report completion.



Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Year

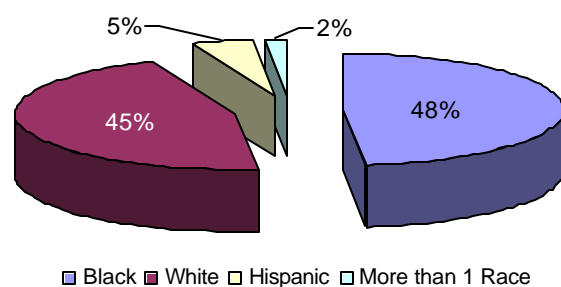
For the first quarter, there were 64 children on runaway status at the end of the quarter. The following table outlines those children.

**Table 17: Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Year
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2 to 5	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 to 11	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 to 15	Female	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	8	8	0	0	0	1	0	17
16 to 18	Female	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	11
	Male	15	12	0	0	0	2	1	30
Total		29	31	0	0	0	3	1	64

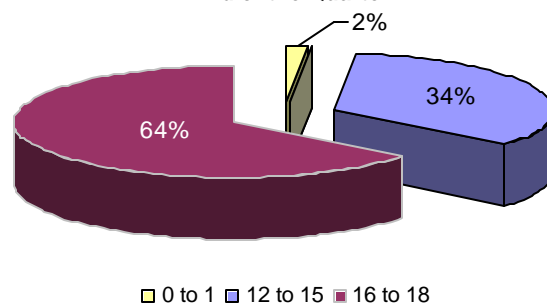
Of the children on runaway status at the end of the quarter, 45 percent were white and 48 percent were black.

**Chart 26a: Ethnicity of Children on Runaway Status
at the end of the Quarter**



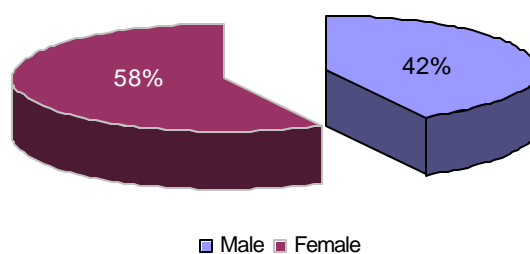
Sixty-four percent of the children who were on runaway status at the end of the quarter were between the ages of 16 and 18.

Chart 26b: Ages of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



There were more female children on runaway status at the end of the quarter than male children.

Chart 26c: Gender of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children in Relative Care

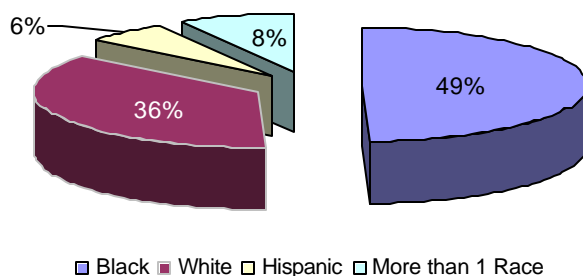
For the first quarter, there were 83 children in relative care. The following table outlines the children who were in relative care during the quarter.

**Table 18: Characteristics of Children in Relative Care
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	<i>Female</i>	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	5
	<i>Male</i>	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
2 to 5	<i>Female</i>	3	6	0	0	0	2	0	11
	<i>Male</i>	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	9
6 to 11	<i>Female</i>	4	4	0	0	0	1	2	11
	<i>Male</i>	8	7	0	0	0	0	1	16
12 to 15	<i>Female</i>	2	12	0	0	0	0	1	15
	<i>Male</i>	2	6	0	0	0	0	3	11
16 to 18	<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		30	41	0	0	0	5	7	83

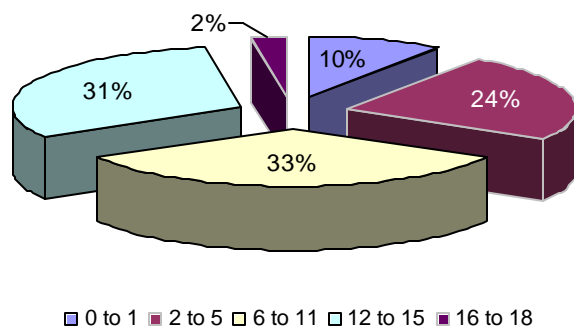
Black children represented the highest percentage of children (49%) in relative care for the first quarter and white children represented the second largest group of children in relative care.

Chart 27a: Ethnicity of Children in Relative Care



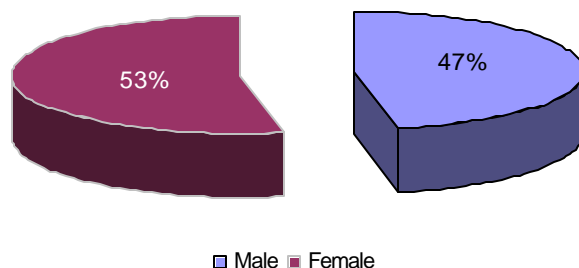
Children between the ages of six and 11 represented the largest age group of children in relative care, followed by children between the ages of 12 and 15.

Chart 27b: Ages of Children in Relative Care



Of the 83 children who were in relative care during the quarter, 53 percent of the children were female and 47 percent were male.

Chart 27c: Gender of Children in Relative Care



Part III: Description of Population and Services
Section III: Adoption

Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption during the Quarter

There were 871 children with the permanency goal of adoption during the quarter. The table below outlines the characteristics of children with the permanency goal of adoption.

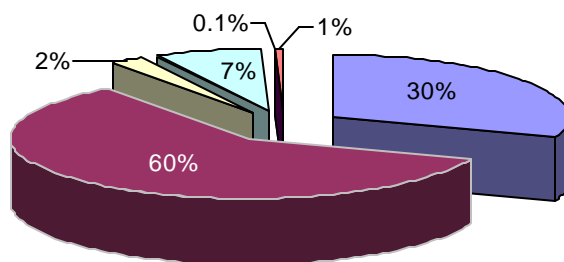
**Table 19: Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption during the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	18	10	0	0	0	2	2	32
	Male	15	9	0	0	0	0	2	26
2 to 5	Female	65	30	0	0	0	5	3	103
	Male	72	41	0	0	0	4	9	126
6 to 11	Female	71	40	0	0	0	2	18	131
	Male	111	53	0	0	0	3	12	179
12 to 15	Female	58	33	0	0	0	2	7	100
	Male	71	40	1	0	0	1	9	122
16 to 18	Female	20	5	0	0	0	0	0	25
	Male	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	21
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total*		520	264	1	0	0	19	62	866

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 5 children.

Sixty percent of the children whose permanency goal was adoption during the quarter were white, while 30 percent were black and two percent were hispanic.

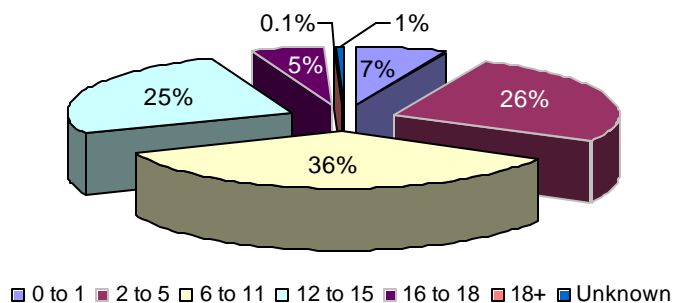
Chart 28a: Ethnicity of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption during the Quarter



Black White Hispanic More than 1 Race Other Unknown

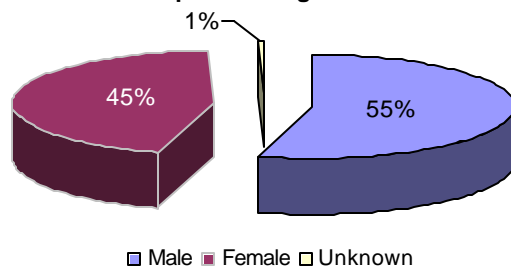
Children between the ages of six and 11 represented the largest group of children with a permanency goal of adoption.

Chart 28b: Ages of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption during the Quarter



Of the 871 children whose permanency goal was adoption, 55 percent of the children were male and 45 percent were female.

Chart 28c: Gender of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption during the Quarter



Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter

There were 811 children whose permanency goal at the end of the quarter was adoption. The table below outlines the characteristics for children with a permanency goal of adoption at the end of the quarter.

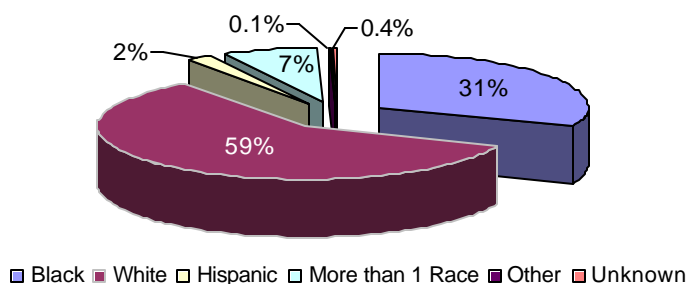
Table 20: Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	17	10	0	0	0	2	2	31
	Male	15	9	0	0	0	0	2	26
2 to 5	Female	57	26	0	0	0	3	2	88
	Male	66	39	0	0	0	3	8	116
6 to 11	Female	66	38	0	0	0	2	18	124
	Male	104	50	0	0	0	1	12	167
12 to 15	Female	55	32	0	0	0	2	7	96
	Male	66	40	1	0	0	1	9	117
16 to 18	Female	17	5	0	0	0	0	0	22
	Male	18	2	0	0	0	0	0	20
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total*		481	252	1	0	0	14	60	808

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 3 children.

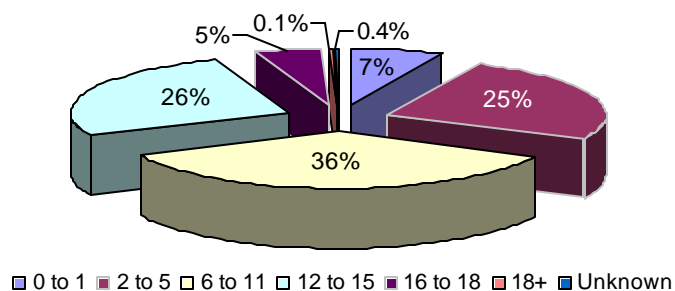
Fifty-nine percent of the children with the permanency goal of adoption were white, 31 percent of the children were black and seven percent of the children had more than one ethnicity.

Chart 29a: Ethnicity of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter



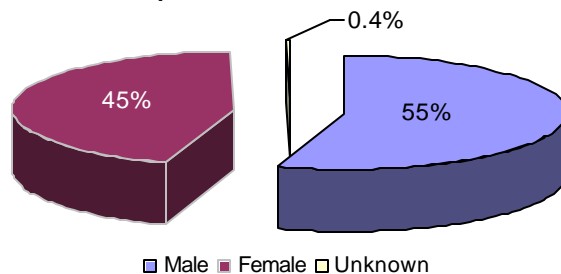
Children between the ages of six and 11 continued to represent the largest age group of children and children between the ages of 12 and 15 represented the second largest group of children whose permanency goal was adoption at the end of the quarter.

Chart 29b: Ages of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter



There were more males (55%) than females (45%) with the permanency goal of adoption at the end of the first quarter.

Chart 29c: Gender of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated during the Quarter

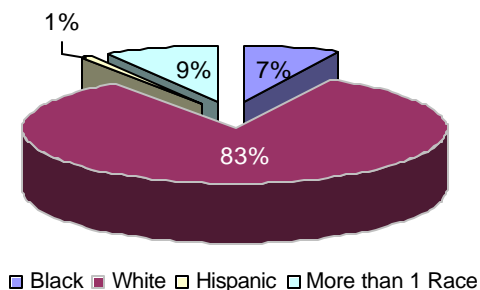
There were 94 children whose parents have had parental rights terminated during the first quarter. The table below outlines the characteristics of children whose parents have had parental rights terminated during the quarter.

**Table 21: Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated during the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	9	2	0	0	0	1	1	13
	Male	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	7
2 to 5	Female	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Male	8	1	0	0	0	0	4	13
6 to 11	Female	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Male	11	0	0	0	0	0	2	13
12 to 15	Female	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
	Male	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
16 to 18	Female	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		78	7	0	0	0	1	8	94

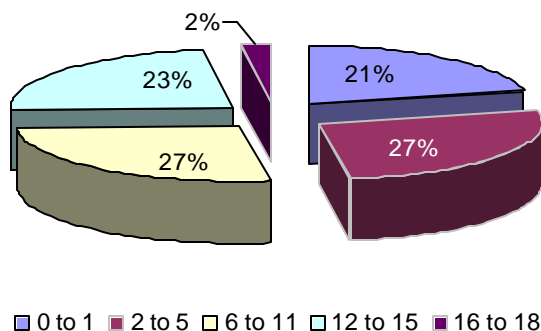
Eighty-three percent of the children whose parents have had parental rights terminated during the quarter were white. Seven percent of the children were black and nine percent were more than one race.

Chart 30a: Ethnicity of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



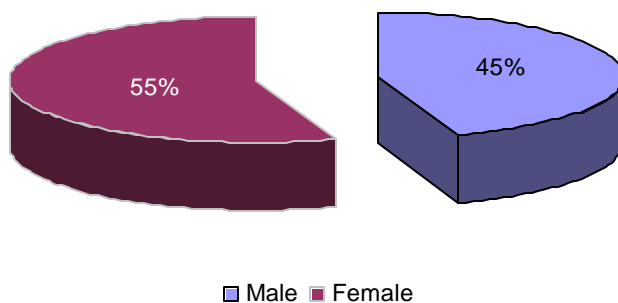
The ages of children whose parents have had parental rights terminated were evenly distributed. Children between the ages of two and five and children between the ages of six and eleven represented the largest group of children.

Chart 30b: Ages of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



There were more female children than male children whose parents have had parental rights terminated during the first quarter.

Chart 30c: Gender of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter

There were 621 children available for adoption at the end of the first quarter. Demographic information for children available for adoption is very similar to previous reports.

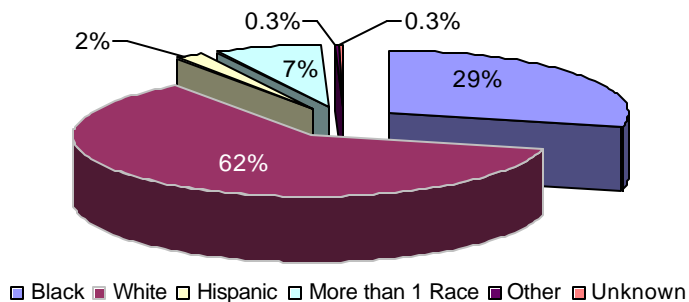
**Table 22: Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	13	2	0	0	0	2	2	19
	Male	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	15
2 to 5	Female	42	16	0	0	0	4	2	64
	Male	48	29	0	0	0	2	6	85
6 to 11	Female	51	34	0	0	0	2	14	101
	Male	83	34	0	0	0	1	8	126
12 to 15	Female	49	21	0	0	0	1	6	77
	Male	59	28	1	0	0	0	6	94
16 to 18	Female	15	6	0	1	0	0	0	22
	Male	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	16
Total*		383	178	1	1	0	12	44	619

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 2 children.

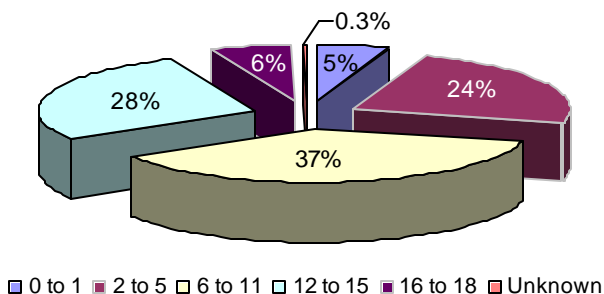
Sixty-two percent of the children available for adoption were white, while 29 percent of the children were black.

**Chart 31a: Ethnicity of Children Available for Adoption
at the End of the Quarter**



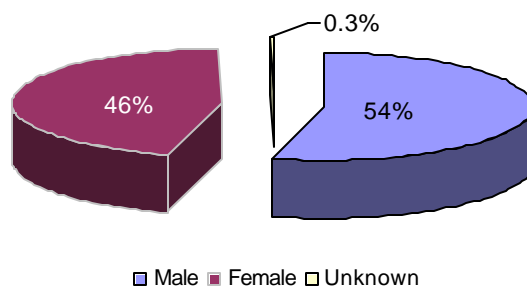
There were more children between the ages of six and 11 available for adoption at the end of the quarter than any other age group.

Chart 31b: Ages of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



There were more male children available for adoption than female children at the end of the quarter. Fifty-four percent of the children were male and 46 percent of the children were female.

Chart 31c: Gender of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



Current Placement of Children Available for Adoption

More children available for adoption at the end of the first quarter were placed in DCFS foster homes than in any other type of placement, followed by adoptive homes. The results are the same as the previous quarter.

**Table 23: Current Placement of Children Available for Adoption
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Placement	Number of Children	Percentage*
DCFS Foster Home	307	49%
Adoptive Home**	113	18%
Therapeutic Foster Home	90	14%
Relative Care	25	4%
Specialized Community Home	29	5%
Residential Facility	29	5%
Hospital/Medical	13	2%
Emergency Shelter	4	.6%
Youth Services	5	.8%
Sexual Offender Treatment	2	.3%
Other	2	.3%
Detention	0	0%
Runaway	2	.3%
Total	621	100%

*The sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Non-finalized Adoptions

Characteristics of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes

There were 240 children placed in pre-adoptive homes during the first quarter. This includes children who were in a pre-adoptive home from the previous quarter as well as children who were placed in a pre-adoptive home during the quarter.

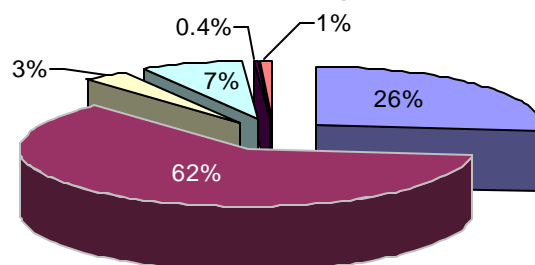
**Table 24: Characteristics of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	8
	Male	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
2 to 5	Female	21	8	0	0	0	2	2	33
	Male	26	9	0	0	0	1	2	38
6 to 11	Female	27	10	0	0	0	1	8	46
	Male	32	14	0	0	0	3	3	52
12 to 15	Female	12	8	0	0	0	0	0	20
	Male	17	10	1	0	0	0	1	29
16 to 18	Female	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total*		149	63	1	0	0	8	17	238

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 2 children.

Of the 240 children in a pre-adoptive home during the quarter, 62 percent were white, 26 percent were black and three percent were hispanic.

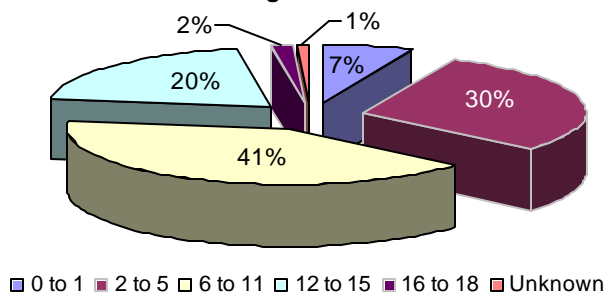
Chart 32a: Ethnicity of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes during the Quarter



■ Black ■ White □ Hispanic □ More than 1 Race ■ Other ■ Unknown

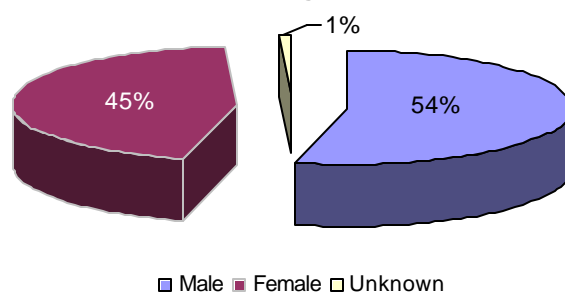
The largest group of children who were placed in pre-adoptive homes was between the ages of six and 11 (41%). The smallest percentage of children placed in a pre-adoptive placement was children who were between the ages of 16 and 18 (2%).

32b: Ages of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes during the Quarter



Of the 240 children placed in a pre-adoptive home during the quarter, 54 percent male and 45 percent female.

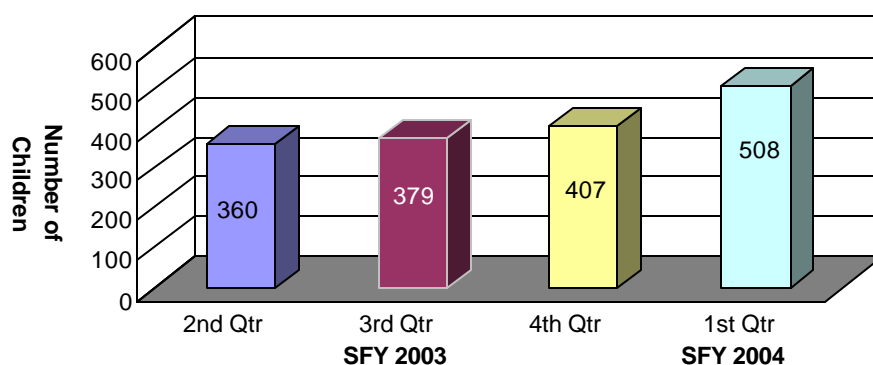
32c: Gender of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes during the Quarter



Children not Placed in an Adoptive Home Whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated

There were 508 children whose parental rights were terminated who were not placed in an adoptive home, an increase from the previous quarter (407). This number was derived by subtracting the number of children placed in adoptive homes at the end of the quarter (113) from the number of children available for adoption at the end of the quarter (621).

Chart 33: Children with Parental Rights Terminated but not Placed in an Adoptive Home



Special Needs

There were (112) children with special needs who were placed in adoptive homes during the first quarter¹⁵. Children with special needs are defined as children who have severe medical or psychological needs that require ongoing treatment. Other children may be considered special needs if they are a Caucasian child over the age of nine, an African American child who is two years old or older or a child who is a member of a sibling group of three or more that is being placed together.

Table 25:
Children with Special Needs who were Placed in Adoptive Homes
1st Quarter SFY 2004

Special Need Condition	Number of Children
Race	112
Age	100
Member of sibling group	43

Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoption

There were 67 children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of those children.

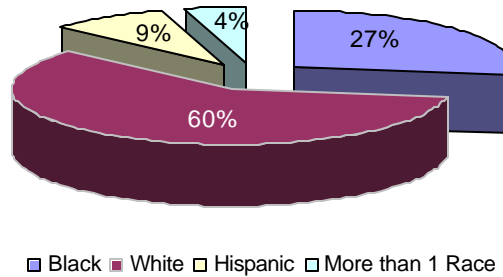
Table 26: Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions
1st Quarter SFY 2004

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2 to 5	Female	7	6	0	0	0	4	2	19
	Male	5	2	0	0	0	1	1	9
6 to 11	Female	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	11
	Male	9	4	0	0	0	1	0	14
12 to 15	Female	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
16 to 18	Female	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		40	18	0	0	0	6	3	67

¹⁵ This number does not take into account children with severe medical and psychological needs because this data is not available in CHRIS (AR Children's Reporting and Information System). As enhancements are made to the data system to capture this information, it will be provided in future reports.

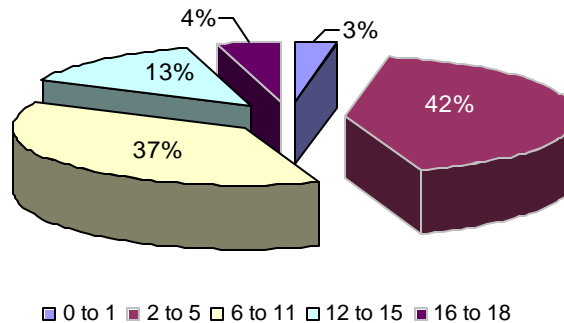
There were 67 children whose adoptions were finalized during the first quarter. Of those, 60 percent were white, 27 percent were black and nine percent were hispanic.

Chart 34a: Ethnicity of Children with Finalized Adoptions



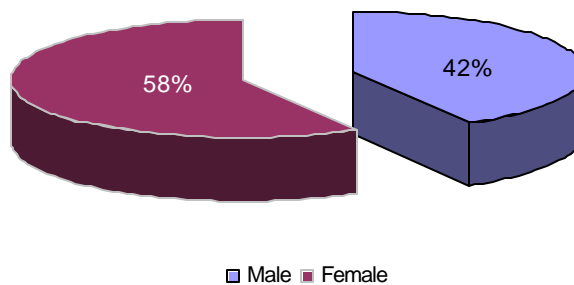
Children between the ages of two and five represented the largest group of children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter.

Chart 34b: Ages of Children with Finalized Adoptions



Fifty-eight percent of the children whose adoptions were finalized were female and 42 percent were male.

Chart 34c: Gender of Children with Finalized Adoptions



Subsidized Adoptions

There were 63 children who began receiving adoption subsidies during the first quarter. Of those, 55 children received federally funded subsidies, while 8 received state funded subsidies.

Characteristics of Children who Received Adoption Subsidies

There were 2,124 children receiving adoption subsidies during the first quarter. The following table outlines the demographics of children receiving adoption subsidies.

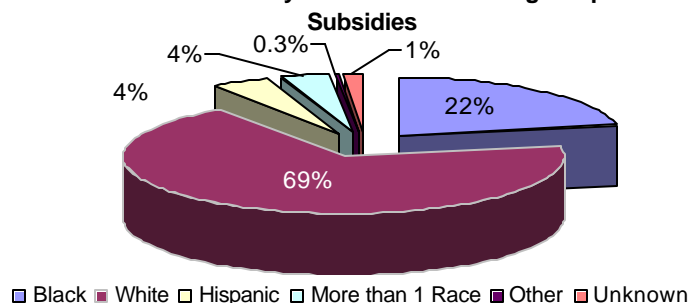
**Table 27: Characteristics of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies
1st Quarter SFY 2004**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
	Male	6	2	0	0	0	0	2	10
2 to 5	Female	112	60	0	0	0	9	13	194
	Male	110	49	0	0	0	9	7	175
6 to 11	Female	227	165	3	1	0	12	6	414
	Male	267	159	0	1	0	7	5	439
12 to 15	Female	181	109	0	1	0	6	0	297
	Male	183	119	1	0	0	7	0	310
16 to 18	Female	92	42	0	0	0	2	1	137
	Male	63	32	0	0	0	1	0	96
18+	Female	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	13
	Male	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	13
Total*		1,256	752	4	3	0	53	35	2,103

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 21 children.

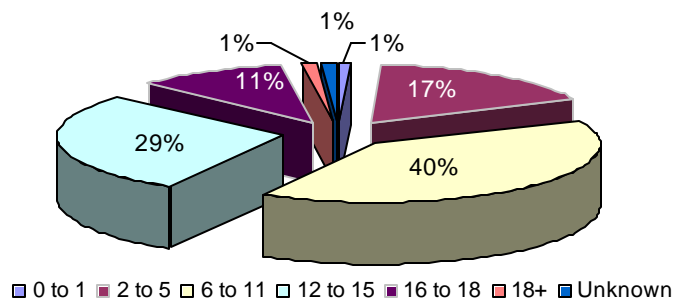
Sixty-nine percent of the children receiving adoption subsidies were white, while 22 percent were black.

Chart 35a: Ethnicity of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies



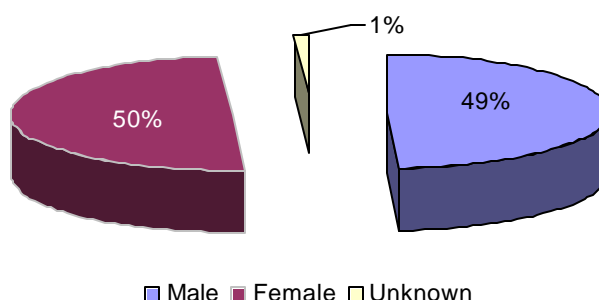
The majority of the children receiving adoption subsidies during the quarter were between the ages of six and 11.

Chart 35b: Ages of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies



Fifty percent of the children receiving adoption subsidies were female, while 49 percent were male.

Chart 35c: Gender of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies



Non-Foster Adoptive Homes

There were 145 adoptive homes available at the beginning of the quarter and 121 adoptive homes available at the end of the first quarter.

Homes available at beginning of quarter	145
Newly available homes	0
Children placed in adoptive homes during the quarter	22
Home that experienced a disruption	1
Homes that closed without a placement	3
Homes available at the end of the quarter	121